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*ABSTRACT*

A router with a routing layer that supports single or multiple routing protocols. The routing layer has at least two routing protocol computing entities, namely a first and a second routing protocol computing entities. Each routing protocol computing entity includes a CPU, a data storage medium in communication with the CPU and a  
10 program data stored in the data storage medium for execution by said CPU. The program data in each routing protocol computing entity implements different or the same routing protocols. This routing layer architecture is highly scalable.